

Message Text

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08606 191545Z

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SUBJ: INCREASED FOCUS ON IDEOLOGICAL PURITY

1. SUMMARY: IN AFTERMATH OF LEADERSHIP TRAVELS TO VERY HEART OF CAPITALIST WORLD, PARTY HIERARCHY IS NOW STRESSING THAT INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DETENTE DOES NOT MEAN IDEOLOGICAL COEXISTENCE. IN COURSE OF PAST WEEK, BOTH GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV AND CHIEF PARTY IDEOLOGIST SOSLOV HAVE ADDED AUTHORITY OF THEIR VOICES TO CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO PRESERVE IDEOLOGICAL PURITY. SOME SEGMENTS OF SOVIET SOCIETY APPARENTLY DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND NUANCES OF BREZHNEV'S FOREIGNPOLICY, PARTICULARLY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DETENTE AND VIGILANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON HEELS OF BREZHNEV'S TRAVELS TO FRG, UNITED STATES, AND FRANCE, PARTY LEADERSHIP APPEARS TO BE CONSCIOUSLY STEPPING UP WARNINGS ABOUT NEED TO MAINTAIN IDEOLOGICAL VIGILANCE. IN FIRST MAJOR PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE RETURN FROM AMERICA AND FRANCE, BREZHNEV USED OCCASION OF RECEIPT OF LENIN PEACE PRIZE TO LEND HIS AUTHORITY TO CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL EFFORT (MOSCOW 8290). IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON IMPROVED SOVIET-US BILATERAL RELATIONS, BREZHNEV WARNED THAT "AGGRESSIVE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM" HAVE NOT LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS. IN DEFINING SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES, BREZHNEV ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08606 191545Z

CLEARLY PLACED PRINCIPLES OF STRENGTHENING SOCIALIST UNITY AND SUPPORT OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES AHEAD OF POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH COUNTRIES HAVING DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY ,IN IDEOLOGICALLY ORIENTED SPEECH ON JULY 13 MARKING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECOND CONGRESS OF RUSSIAN SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC WORKERS' PARTY, CHIEF PARTY IDEOLOGIST SOSLOV PLACED PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AT END OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES, PRECEDED BY ASSISTING CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNISM AT HOME, MAINTAINING UNITY OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AND FACILITATING NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE ALSO PICKED UP CUDGEL IN BATTLE TO STRENGTHEN IDEOLOGICAL VIGILANCE OF SOVIET PEOPLE. HITTING HARD ON THEME THAT THERE CANNOT BE IDEOLOGICAL COEXISTANCE BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND CAPITALIST SYSTEMS, SUSLOV WARNED THAT CLASS ENEMIES ATTEMPT TO USE EVERY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE ALIEN, REACTIONARY IDEAS INTO SOVIET SOCIETY. HE WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT APRIL PLENUM FOCUSED ATTENTION ON NEED TO INCREASE LEVEL OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK, PARTICULARLY FOR PURPOSE OF GUARDING AGAINST INTRIGUES OF REACTIONARY CIRCLES AND ATTEMPTS AT IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSION.

4. LIMITED AVAILABLE EVIDENCE SUPPORTS SUPPOSITION THAT AT LEAST SOME SEGMENTS OF SOVIET SOCIETY ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING ABRUPT TURNAROUND IN SOVIET-US BILATERAL RELATIONS. PERHAPS CLEAREST INDICATION OF THIS IS LETTER WHICH PRAVDA COMMENTATOR YURIY ZHUKOV ANSWERED ON NATIONWIDE TV QUESTION AND ANSWER PROGRAM JULY 14. LETTER FROM SIBERIAN TRAIN CONDUCTOR RECOUNTED DISCUSSION BETWEEN YOUNG TEACHER AND WORLD WAR II VETERAN. TEACHER TOOK POSITION THAT RECENT RELAXATION IN INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS WILL ASSURE PEACE FOR MANY YEARS AND ASSIST IN IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS FOR SOVIET PEOPLE. VETERAN ARGUED THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SPEAK IN THESE TERMS AND THAT SOVIETS MUST BE MORE VIGILANT THAN EVER BECAUSE IMPERIALISTS ARE PERFIDIOUS. TEACHER RESPONDED THAT CAPITALISTS DO NOT WANT TO DIE EITHER. COUNTERATTACKING, VETERAN POINTED TO CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF PROPAGANDA RADIO STATIONS AND CONTINUED MILITARY DEVELOPMENT IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. CONDUCTOR IN CONCLUSION ASKED FOR ZHUKOV'S ASSESSMENT AND NOTED THAT OF TEN PASSENGERS LISTENING TO THE ARGUMENT, SIX SUPPORTED THE VETERAN AND FOUR SIDED WITH THE TEACHER.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 08606 191545Z

5. ZHUKOV'S REPLY, PWHICH NOT AS REVEALING AS DISCUSSION OUTLINED IN LETTER, PREDICTABLY TOOK MIDDLE LINE BETWEEN TWO POSITIONS POINTING OUT THAT EACH CORRECT IN CERTAIN RESPECTS. ON ONE HAND, IMPERIALIST RULING CIRCLES ARE MORE REALISTIC AND UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE; ON OTHER HAND, IMPERIALISTS CONTINUE TO HARBOR IDEAS OF BRINGING ABOUT CHANGES IN SOVIET SYSTEM. CONSEQUENTLY SOVIETS UNDERSTAND THAT THERE CANNOT BE COEXISTENCE ON THE IDEOLOGICAL FRONT AND THAT THEY MUST REMAIN STRONG AND VIGILANT.

6. USING TRADITIONAL SOVIET TECHNIQUE OF DESCRIBING SITUATIONS IN FOREIGN TERMS WHICH CAN APPLY EQUALLY TO SOVIET SOCIETY,

IZVESTIYA INTERNATIONAL COMMENTATOR V. MATVEYEV, IN ARTICLE ENTITLED " FROM DISTRUST TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" PUBLISHED JULY 16, DEALS WITH QUESTION OF TURNING AROUND OPINIONS OF AMERICANS ABOUT SOVIET -US BILATERAL RELATIONS. MATVEYEV NOTES EFFORTS IN US AFTER SECOND WORLD WAR TO EFFECT 180 DEGREE TURN IN PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD USSR. NOW, HE RELATES, WHEN INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED FROM "COLD WAR" TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION, PERCEPTIBLE CHANGE IS OCCURRING IN MINDS OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ABOUT THESE RELATIONS.

7. MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, WHICH BY ITS NATURE HAS ONE OF LARGEST STAKES IN MAINTAINING HIGH LEVEL OF VIGILANCE AND IDEOLOGICAL PURITY, HAS BEEN MAKING ITS OWN CONTRIBUTION TO CURRENT CAMPAIGN. MONITORING OF RED STAR DURING RECENT WEEKS INDICATES SLIGHTLY MORE RESERVED TONE IN COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV VISIT TO US AND ENTIRE QUESTION OF BENEFITS OF IMPROVED US-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS, AS WELL AS TENDENCY TO DEPICT US MILITARY SPOKESMEN AS WARMONGERS. SPEAKING TO ASSEMBLY OF MILITARY SCHOOL GRADUATES AT KREMLIN ON JULY 2, POLITOURO MEMBER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE GRECHKO MADE PITCH FOR CONTINUED VIGILANCE ALONG LINES SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT APRIL PLENUM. ACQUAINTANCE OF EMBOFF WHO WORKS IN MILITARY RECREATIONAL CLUB REPORTS THAT OFFICERS ARE NOW BUSIER THAN EVER ATTENDING IDEOLOGICAL MEETINGS. SOURCE DESCRIBED BASIC PROBLEM AS BEING ONE OF "DECIDING NOW AGAINST WHOM TO POINT SOVIET WEAPONRY."

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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 08606 191545Z

8. APPARENT STEP-UP IN THOROUGHNESS OF CUSTOMS' EXAMINATIONS AT MOSCOW'S SHERMET'YEVO AIRPORT IS PROBABLY RELATED TO CURRENT CONCERN WITH IDEOLOGICAL VIGILANCE. PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS DEVOTED TO INSPECTION OF FOREIGN LITERARY MATERIAL IN POSSESSION OF TRAVELLERS. DURING VISIT TO AIRPORT JULY 12, EMBOFFS NOTED FILMING OF CUSTOMS AREA WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE USED IN FILM DEVOTED TO VIGILANCE THEME.

9. VIGILANCE CAMPAIGNS ARE NOT NEW TO THE SOVIET UNION. NEVERTHELESS, THE CURRENT EFFORTS TO INDOCTRINATE THE POPULATION COMES AT TIME WHEN AT LEAST SOME SEGMENTS OF SOVIET SOCIETY ARE APPARENTLY FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO ADJUST TO LATEST ZIG IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. JUDGING FROM AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, PROPAGANDISTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE DIFFICULT JOB OF WALKING THIN LINE BETWEEN EXTOLLING VIRTUES OF RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS WHILE AT SAME TIME CONVINCING PEOPLE OF CONTINUING NEED TO GUARD AGAINST "PERFIDIOUS" DEEDS OF WESTERN IMPERIALISTS. VERY DIFFICULTY OF TASK DICTATES NEED FOR INCREASED IDEOLOGICAL EFFORT WHICH NOW APPEARS TO BE UNDERWAY.
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